ROCKET RACCOON® & GROOT™ 9

CIVIL WAR II

ROCKET RACCOON & GROOT

PART II OF THE BAD SOUTHERN PUN TRILOGY: "GONE WITH THE GWEN'D"

ROCKET RACCOON AND GROOT ARE BEST FRIENDS ALL THE TIME. THEY ARE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY MOST OF THE TIME. THEY ARE HEROES...LET'S SAY...AT LEAST HALF THE TIME. SOMETIMES THEY'RE BOUNTY HUNTERS, WHICH IS KIND OF A GRAY AREA.

EARTH'S HEROES PREVENTED A CATACLYSMIC EVENT THANKS TO A NEW INHUMAN NAMED ULYSSES, WHO HAS THE ABILITY TO SEE THE FUTURE. NOW, EARTH'S GREATEST CHAMPIONS ARE FORCED TO MAKE A CHOICE: PROTECT THE FUTURE...OR CHANGE IT?

ULYSSES PREDICTED AN ALIEN INVASION! AND A GEORGIAN BABY POWDER FACTORY ROBBERY? ROCKET DECIDED THAT THE LATTER REQUIRED HIS IMMEDIATE ATTENTION. (LONG AGO, ROCKET WAS EMBARRASSINGLY EVADED BY CHAMMY, AN ALIEN WITH A BABY-POWDER-POWERED SHIP.) ROCKET AND GROOT AREN'T THE ONLY ONES CHASING CHAMMY: THERE'S GWEN POOLE, WHO'LL INTRODUCE HERSELF LATER, AND REEVE—A SCARY MEMBER OF CHAMMY'S SPECIES WHO CAN SUCK MEMORIES OUT OF HEADS!

WRITER
NICK KOCHER

ARTIST
MICHAEL WALSH

COLORIST
MICHAEL GARLAND

LETTERER
JEFF ECKLEBERRY

COVER ARTIST
DAVID LOPEZ

TITLE PAGE DESIGN
ANTHONY GAMBINO

ASSISTANT EDITOR
KATHLEEN WISNESKI

EDITOR
JAKE THOMAS

EDITOR IN CHIEF
AXEL ALONSO

CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER
JOE QUESADA

PUBLISHER
DAN BUCKLEY

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
ALAN FINE

GROOT CREATED BY STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER, & JACK KIRBY
ROCKET RACCOON CREATED BY BILL MANTLO & KEITH GIFFEN

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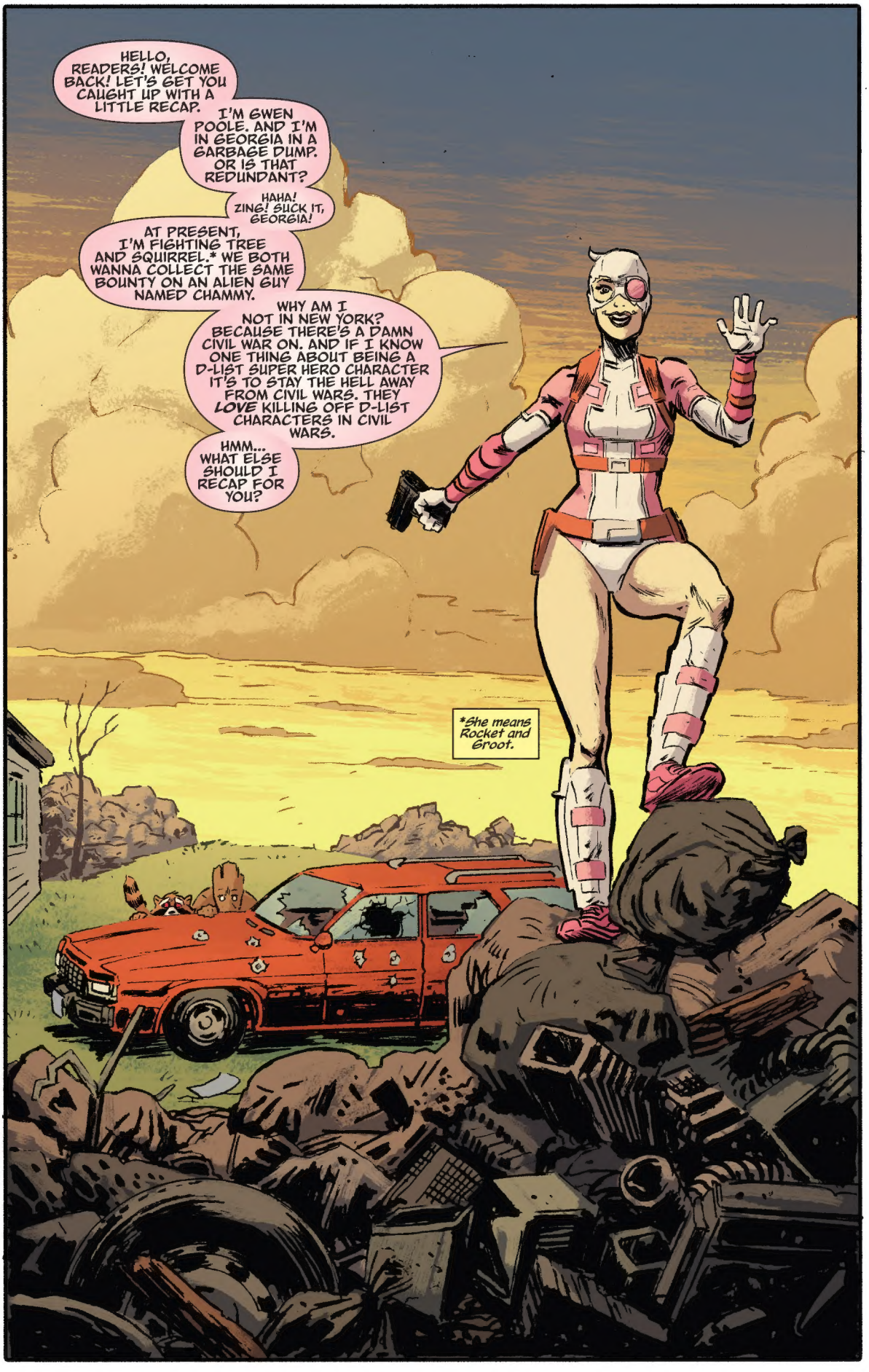
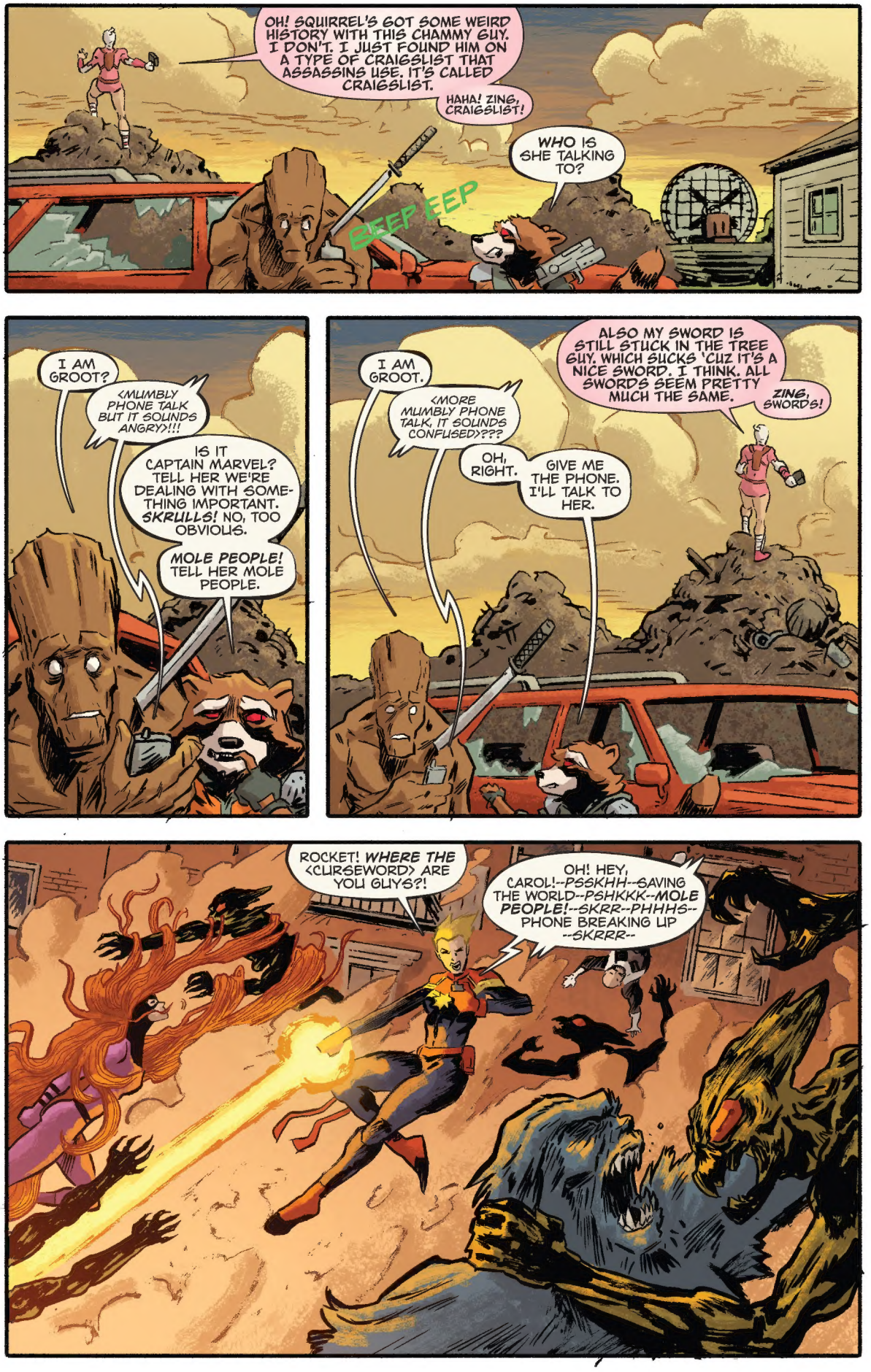

HELLO, READERS! WELCOME BACK! LET'S GET YOU CAUGHT UP WITH A LITTLE RECAP.
I'M GWEN POOLE. AND I'M IN GEORGIA IN A GARBAGE DUMP. OR IS THAT REDUNDANT?
HAHA! ZING! SUCK IT, GEORGIA!
AT PRESENT, I'M FIGHTING TREE AND SQUIRREL.* WE BOTH WANNA COLLECT THE SAME BOUNTY ON AN ALIEN GUY NAMED CHAMMY.
WHY AM I NOT IN NEW YORK? BECAUSE THERE'S A DAMN CIVIL WAR ON. AND IF I KNOW ONE THING ABOUT BEING A D-LIST SUPER HERO CHARACTER IT'S TO STAY THE HELL AWAY FROM CIVIL WARS. THEY *LOVE* KILLING OFF D-LIST CHARACTERS IN CIVIL WARS.
HMM... WHAT ELSE SHOULD I RECAP FOR YOU?
*She means Rocket and Groot.

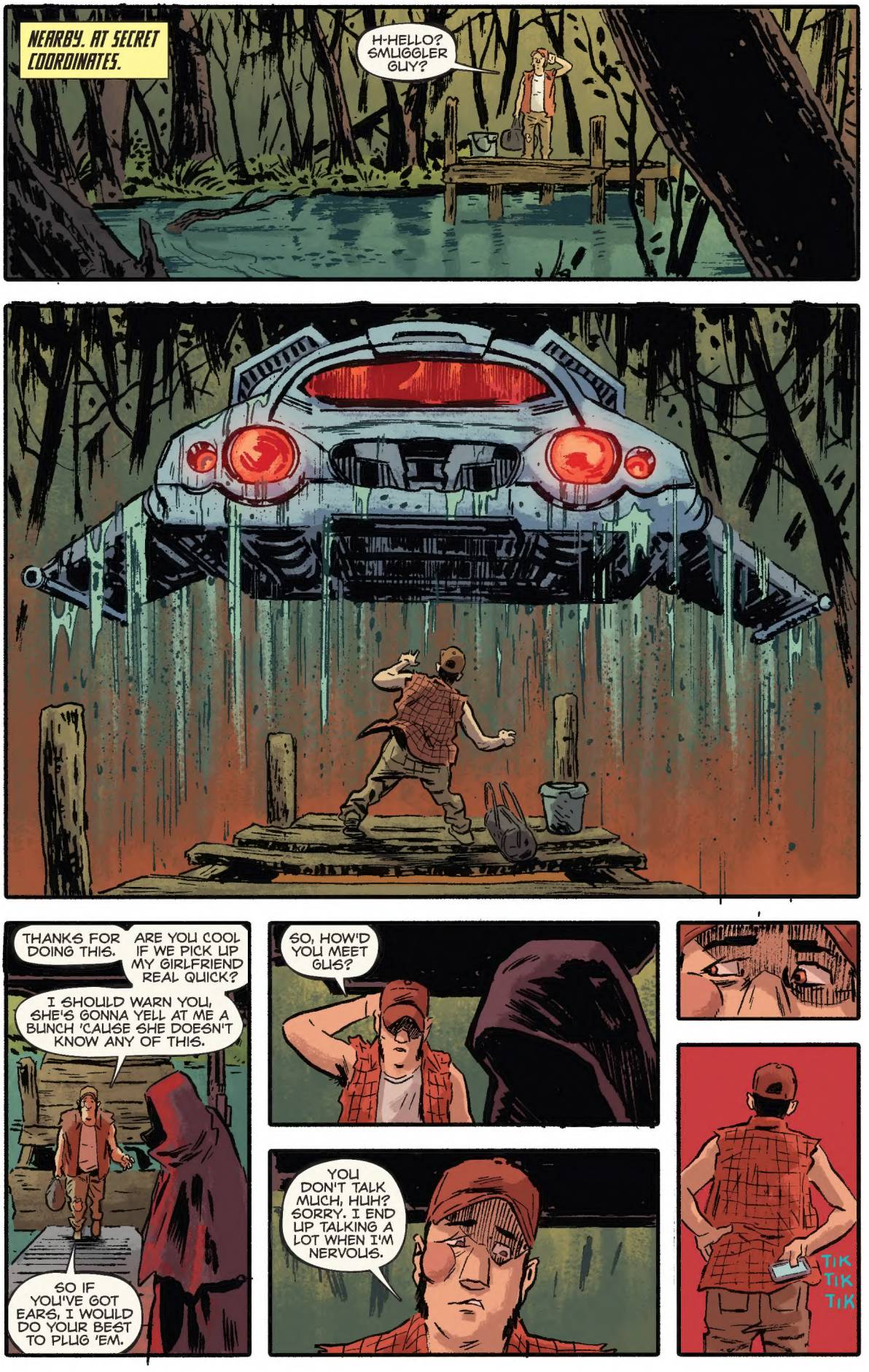

OH! SQUIRREL'S GOT SOME WEIRD HISTORY WITH THIS CHAMMY GUY. I DON'T. I JUST FOUND HIM ON A TYPE OF CRAIGSLIST THAT ASSASSINS USE. IT'S CALLED CRAIGSLIST.
HAHA! ZING, CRAIGSLIST!
WHO IS SHE TALKING TO?
BEEP EEP
I AM GROOT?
<MUMBLY PHONE TALK BUT IT SOUNDS ANGRY>!!!
IS IT CAPTAIN MARVEL? TELL HER WE'RE DEALING WITH SOMETHING IMPORTANT. SKRULLS! NO, TOO OBVIOUS.
MOLE PEOPLE! TELL HER MOLE PEOPLE.
I AM GROOT.
<MORE MUMBLY PHONE TALK, IT SOUNDS CONFUSED>???
OH, RIGHT.
GIVE ME THE PHONE. I'LL TALK TO HER.
ALSO MY SWORD IS STILL STUCK IN THE TREE GUY. WHICH SUCKS 'CUZ IT'S A NICE SWORD. I THINK. ALL SWORDS SEEM PRETTY MUCH THE SAME.
ZING, SWORDS!
ROCKET! WHERE THE <CURSEWORD> ARE YOU GUYS?!
OH! HEY, CAROL!--PSSKHH--SAVING THE WORLD--PSHKKK--MOLE PEOPLE!--SKRR--PHHHS--PHONE BREAKING UP --SKRRR--

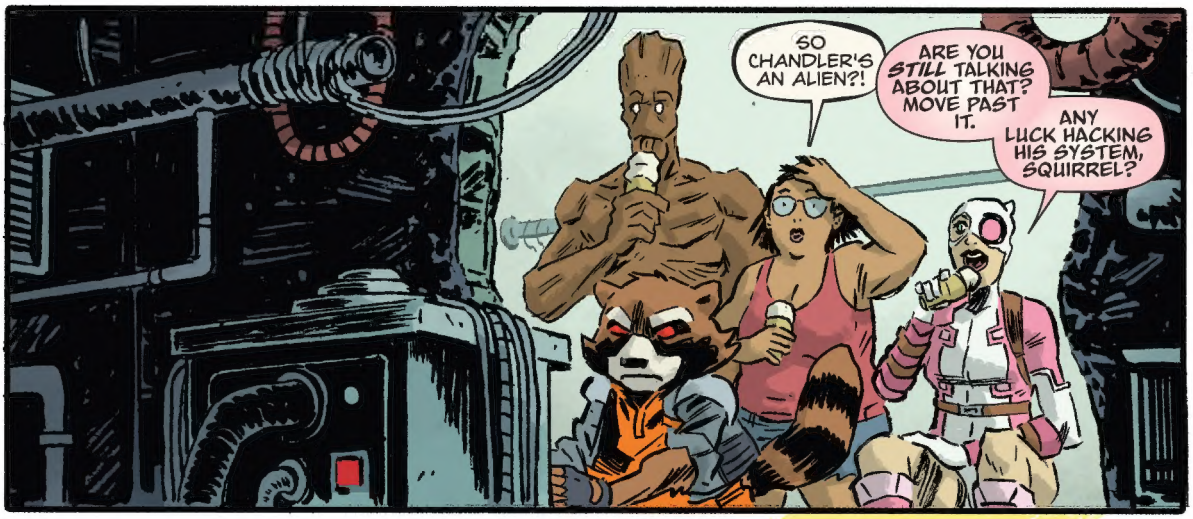
PSSSSKKKH-- TALK LATER-- PSSHHHKK--
I KNOW YOU'RE DOING THAT WITH YOUR MOUTH, ROCKET! YOU <JUST-A-WHOLE-BUNCH-OF-CURSE-WORDS>!
OKAY. I THINK SHE BOUGHT IT.
I AM GROOT!
SHRZAP
OH, WHAT WERE YOU GONNA USE A PHONE FOR? YOU GOT A BUNCH OF PEOPLE YOU NEED TO TELL THAT YOU'RE GROOT?
I AM GROOT!
HEY! SQUIRREL!
I'M DONE WITH MY RECAP! WHAT'S OUR PLAN HERE?
WELL, MY PLAN IS TO HURT YOU REAL BAD UNTIL YOU GO AWAY.
SO IF YOUR PLAN IS TO GET HURT REAL BAD, THEN YOU SHOULD ABSOLUTELY STICK AROUND HERE!
OKAY! GOOD TO KNOW!
WHADDYA TRYING TO BUY WITH THE BOUNTY MONEY?
IT'S NOT ABOUT THE MONEY! IT'S ABOUT SETTLING AN OLD SCORE!
GREAT! SO HOW ABOUT WE CATCH HIM TOGETHER, I TAKE ALL THE MONEY, AND YOU TAKE ALL THE EMOTIONAL CLOSURE?
WELL, IT'S NOT NOT ABOUT THE MONEY.
HOW ABOUT THIS? WE CALL A TEMPORARY PEACE TREATY AND GO BUST CHAMMY TOGETHER.
THEN WE DO THE HURTING-EACH-OTHER PART.
A TEMPORARY PEACE TREATY, HUH?
IT WORKED FOR THE MIDDLE EAST!
DID IT???
MAYBE! HONESTLY, I HAVE VERY LITTLE IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON OVER THERE.

CHAMMY'S HOUSE. LATER.
DIBS ON KICKING DOWN THE DOOR!
SETTLE DOWN. THERE'S NO NEED.
WHERE'S CHAMMY?!
WHO?
CHAMMY!
WHAP
WHERE'S CHAMMY?!
CHUNK
THAK
I...I THINK YOU HAVE THE WRONG HOUSE. I DON'T KNOW ANYBODY NAMED CHAMMY.
MY BOYFRIEND'S NAME IS CHANDLER AND THERE'S NO WAY YOU'RE LOOKING FOR HIM.
CHANDLER! GET OUT OF THE BATHROOM AND MAKE THESE PEOPLE REPAIR OUR FRONT DOOR.
HE'S IN THE BATHROOM!

DOOR'S LOCKED. I'LL KICK IT DOWN!
CHK
CHK
NO! YOU DID THE LAST ONE. I'M DOING THIS ONE!
PONK
OW!
I KNEW YOU COULDN'T DO IT WITH THOSE TINY SQUIRREL LEGS.
IT'S OBVIOUSLY... REINFORCED OR SOMETHING. HANG ON.
VRRRRR
PHOOM
ZAPT
PLEASE STOP BREAKING OUR DOORS--
WHAT?!

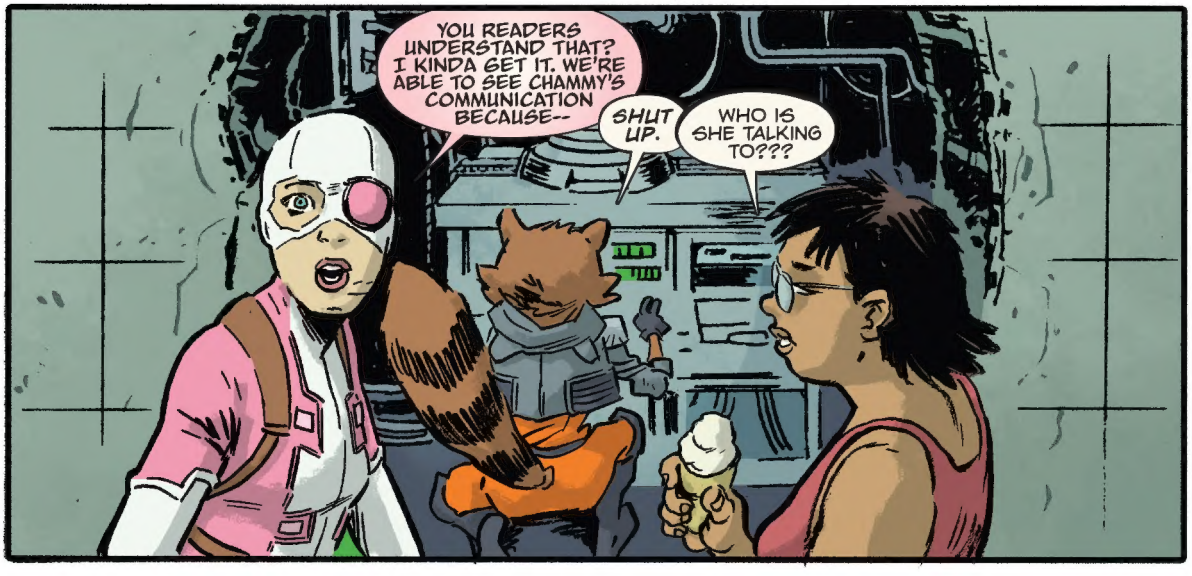
OH, CHAMMMMMY! REMEMBER ME?
VRRRRM
SHOOT. HE'S NOT HERE.
NO. NO! NOT AGAIN! HE'S GOTTA BE HERE SOMEWHERE. SEARCH THE ROOM.
I CAN SEE THE WHOLE ROOM. HE'S NOT HERE.
-:SIGH:- AT LEAST NOBODY ELSE IS WITNESSING IT THIS TIME.
YEAH. EXCEPT FOR ALL MY SNAPCHAT* FOLLOWERS, I GUESS.
YOU WANNA GET ICE CREAM? I'M NOT LACTOSE INTOLERANT IN THIS COMIC BOOK UNIVERSE.
*Or whatever social media platform is popular when this goes to print.

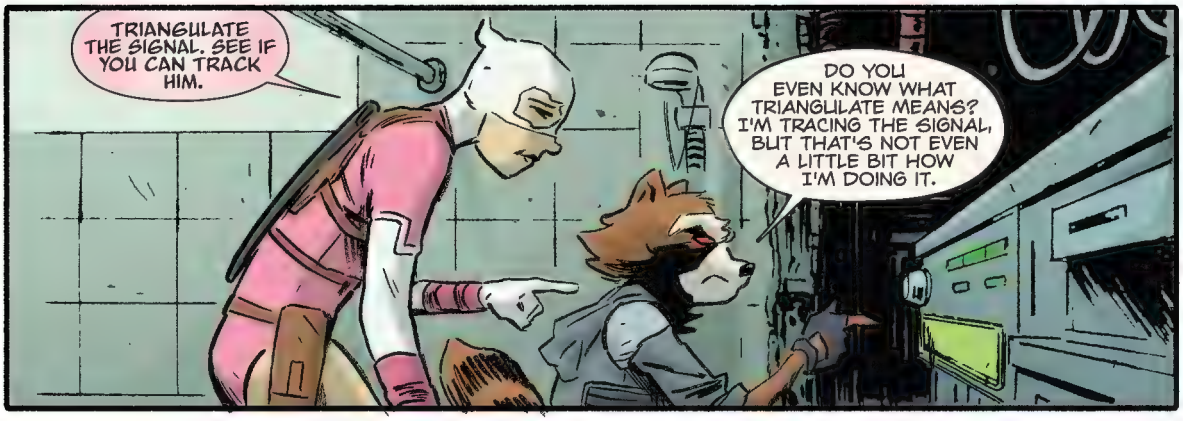

NEARBY. AT SECRET COORDINATES.
H-HELLO? SMUGGLER GUY?
THANKS FOR DOING THIS.
ARE YOU COOL IF WE PICK UP MY GIRLFRIEND REAL QUICK?
I SHOULD WARN YOU, SHE'S GONNA YELL AT ME A BUNCH 'CAUSE SHE DOESN'T KNOW ANY OF THIS.
SO IF YOU'VE GOT EARS, I WOULD DO YOUR BEST TO PLUG 'EM.
SO, HOW'D YOU MEET GUS?
YOU DON'T TALK MUCH, HUH? SORRY. I END UP TALKING A LOT WHEN I'M NERVOUS.
TIK
TIK
TIK


SO CHANDLER'S AN ALIEN?!
ARE YOU STILL TALKING ABOUT THAT? MOVE PAST IT.
ANY LUCK HACKING HIS SYSTEM, SQUIRREL?

NO.
WHILE WE'RE WAITING, SHOULD I COME UP WITH A TEMPORARY PEACE TREATY TEAM NAME FOR US?
NO.
HOW ABOUT THE GWEN AND TONICS?
NO.
ACCESS DENIED..

BEEPEEEPEEEPBEEPEEEPEEEPBEEPE
WHOA, WHAT'S HAPPENING?
GUS! U THERE? THIS SMUGGLER'S GIVING ME THE CREEPS...
HIS REMOTE DEVICE MUST BE GETTING ROUTED THROUGH THIS CONSOLE!


YOU READERS UNDERSTAND THAT? I KINDA GET IT. WE'RE ABLE TO SEE CHAMMY'S COMMUNICATION BECAUSE--
SHUT UP.
WHO IS SHE TALKING TO???


TRIANGULATE THE SIGNAL. SEE IF YOU CAN TRACK HIM.
DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT TRIANGULATE MEANS? I'M TRACING THE SIGNAL, BUT THAT'S NOT EVEN A LITTLE BIT HOW I'M DOING IT.

CAN WE ZOOM IN AND *ENHANCE* AN IMAGE WHILE WE'RE HERE? ALWAYS WANTED TO DO THAT.
GOT HIM.

TRANSMITTING...
GUS?? U OK?

BEEP BEEP BEEP

SO, UH... WE SHOULD PROBABLY HIT THE ROAD...

RIGHT, *REEVE*?

GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, CHAMMY.

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
HUH?!
KRUNK
WUMP
FUMP

BEEN A LONG TIME, CHAMMY.
Y'KNOW, YOU MUSTA BEEN GOOD AT HIDE-AND-SEEK. IT TOOK ME *FOREVER* TO FIND YOU.
LUCKY FOR ME, YOUR *FRIENDS* AREN'T AS GOOD AT HIDING AS YOU ARE.
SO, WE'VE GOT TWO OPTIONS HERE. OPTION ONE, YOU TELL ME WHAT I NEED TO KNOW, AND THEN I KILL YOU QUICK.
OR...OPTION TWO, YOU DON'T TELL ME AND I SUCK IT OUT OF YOUR HEAD REGARDLESS. BUT EVERY TIME I USE THAT POWER IT MAKES ME VOMIT. AND I *HATE* VOMITING.
WHICH IS WHY OPTION TWO WILL END WITH ME KILLING YOU...
REALLY.
REALLY.
SLOWLY.
YOU'RE GONNA TRY THE GUN AGAIN?! YOU KNOW WHAT? FINE. TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT.
SURE THING.

BLAM
YOU'D KILL YOURSELF?! JUST TO PROTECT HER?
WHERE'S ALL THIS HONOR COMING FROM, CHAMMY?! YOU FORGET, I KNOW YOU. PRETEND ALL YOU WANT, YOU'LL NEVER BE ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS.
AT LEAST--HKK-- I WON'T--ACK-- LOOK LIKE-- IKK--YOU.
FINE. OPTION TWO IT IS.
THERE. IT'S DONE. ALL YOUR HIDING, ALL YOUR STRUGGLE, IT WAS ALL FOR NOTH--
BLORFH
UGH. GROSS. THAT SUCKS SO MUCH.
ALL RIGHT, READY TO DIE SLOW AND PAINFULLY?

ZZAP
FREEZE, SUCKA!
REMEMBER ME, JERK?!
YOU'VE EMBARRASSED ME TWO TIMES NOW, THERE WON'T BE A THIRD.
GWEN! GET OVER HERE AND SNAPCHAT THIS!
OKAY!
TEMPORARY PEACE OVER!
THACK
YOUR NAME WEIRDS ME OUT, CHAMMY. I'M RENAMING YOU AFTER WHAT I'M GONNA BUY WITH YOUR BOUNTY MONEY.
SO, JET SKI, HANDCUFF YOURSELF, AND LET'S GET--
KRUNCH
I AM GROOT.

I AM--
GROOT!!!
NOW, WHO ARE YOU THREE SUPPOSED TO BE?
WE'RE THE... SEVEN DEADLY GWENS!
NO, WE'RE NOT. AND THERE'S ONLY THREE OF--ALSO, WE'RE NOT ON THE SAME TEAM!
I AM GROOT.

AND WHO ARE YOU? A MELTED CANDLE?
ARE YOU ALSO AFTER THE BOUNTY?
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU. BUT THERE IS NO BOUNTY.
I'M THE ONE WHO OFFERED IT, AND I WAS JUST GOING TO KILL WHOEVER BROUGHT CHAMMY TO ME.
SUE ME. I'M FRUGAL.
THAT'S IT. I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF MR. ACNE SCARS.
WAIT! WE DON'T NEED TO FIGHT!
WHAT?
HE SAID THERE'S NO BOUNTY! WE'VE GOT NOTHING TO GAIN BY FIGHTING EACH OTHER. I MEAN, SURE, THIS GUY'S CLEARLY EVIL.
BUT ALL HE WANTS TO DO IS KIDNAP ANOTHER CRIMINAL, SO WHO CARES? LET'S JUST GO DO SOMETHING ELSE.
YEAH, BUT THIS GUY'S GOT ME ALL KEYED UP...
SO?
SO... NO.
UGH. FRIGGIN' COMIC BOOK CHARACTERS.

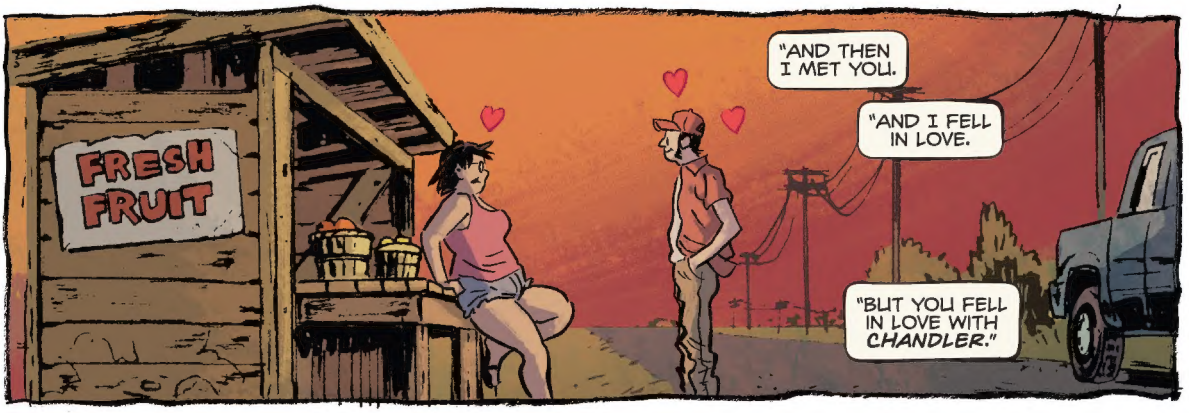
PSST! CHANDLER!
HUH?
RUTH?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
SAVING YOUR LIFE.
AND THEN YELLING AT YOU.
LEMME TELL YOU WHY YOU'RE NOT GOING TO WIN THIS.
BECAUSE YOU'VE GOT THINGS TO LOSE.
BOOM
YOU'VE GOT FRIENDS AND FAMILY AND WANTS AND DESIRES AND PLANS.
SLAM

I DON'T. I DID. BUT NOW THEY'RE ALL GONE.
FUMP
KRAK
WHEN A MAN HAS-- OW!
CHK
NOW, WHERE WAS I? OH, RIGHT--
WHEN A MAN HAS NOTHING TO LOSE...THEN HE NEVER WILL.
OF COURSE, IT ALSO HELPS IF HE'S A BETTER FIGHTER THAN ALL THREE OF YOU COMBINED.

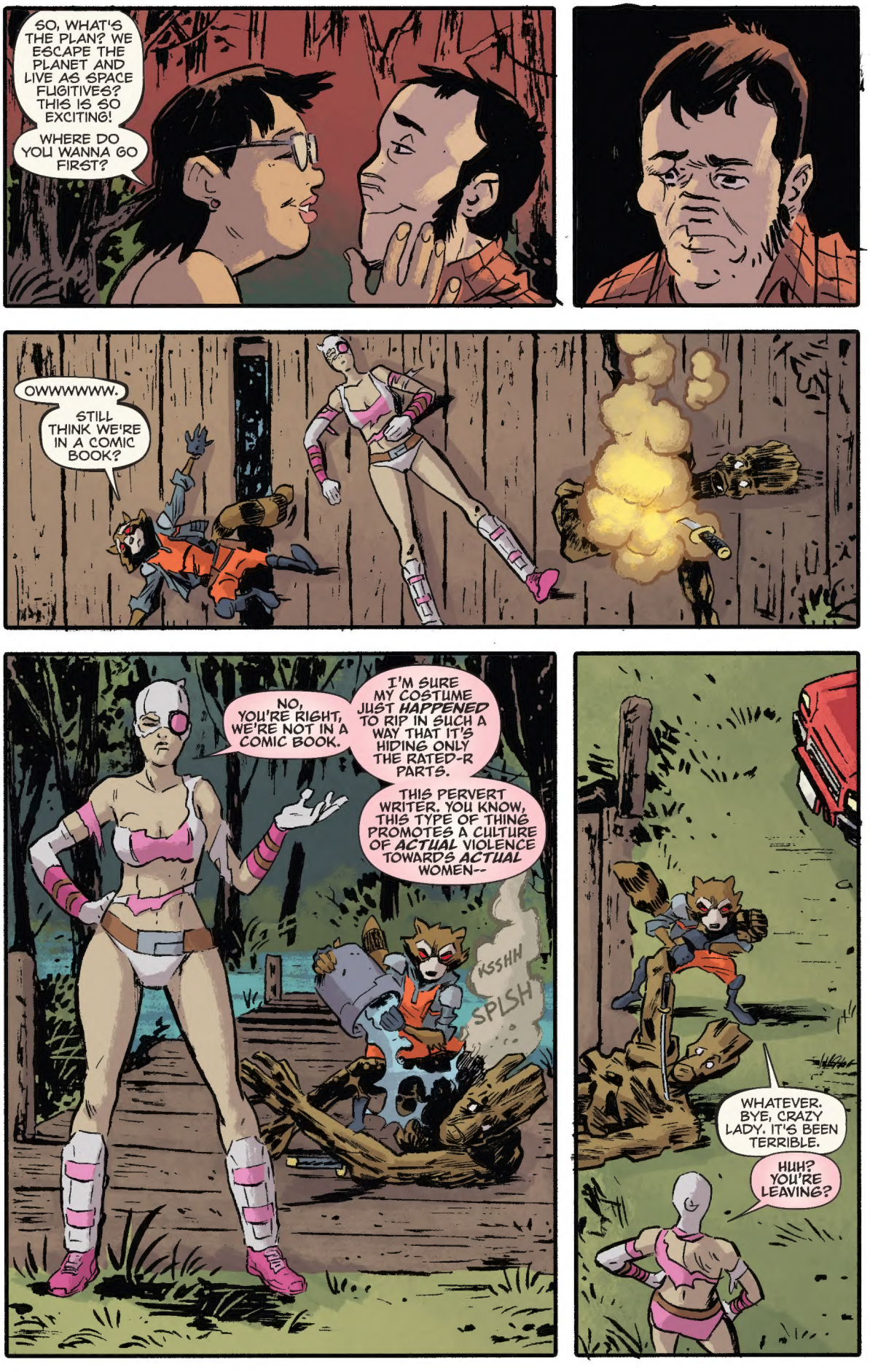
YOU'VE BEEN LYING TO ME FROM DAY ONE!!!
I'M SORRY. I HEAR Y--
APOLOGIZE ONE MORE TIME AND I WILL SHOVE THIS PINEAPPLE WHERE YOUR NOSE SHOULD BE!
I'M S-- OKAY.

SO WHAT WAS I? JUST PART OF YOUR COVER?!
SOME DUMB EARTH BIMBO TO HELP YOU KEEP UP APPEARANCES?
OF COURSE NOT!
YOU...
THEN WHAT?! WHAT AM I TO YOU?!

RUTH. THE PLAN WAS TO LIE LOW. FIND AN ISOLATED SPOT AND HIDE AWAY FROM THE UNIVERSE. ALONE.


FRESH FRUIT
"AND THEN I MET YOU.
"AND I FELL IN LOVE.
"BUT YOU FELL IN LOVE WITH CHANDLER."

AND I'M NOT CHANDLER. I'M CHAMMY. AND CHAMMY'S NOT A GOOD PERSON, RUTH. HE'S NOT A PERSON AT ALL.
...
I'M SORRY FOR DRAGGING YOU INTO THIS. I'LL MAKE SURE NO ONE BOTHERS Y--
YOU KNOW...
CHANDLER WAS BORING THE CRAP OUT OF ME.


SO, WHAT'S THE PLAN? WE ESCAPE THE PLANET AND LIVE AS SPACE FUGITIVES? THIS IS SO EXCITING!
WHERE DO YOU WANNA GO FIRST?
OWWWWWW.
STILL THINK WE'RE IN A COMIC BOOK?
NO, YOU'RE RIGHT, WE'RE NOT IN A COMIC BOOK.
I'M SURE MY COSTUME JUST *HAPPENED* TO RIP IN SUCH A WAY THAT IT'S HIDING ONLY THE RATED-R PARTS.
THIS PERVERT WRITER. YOU KNOW, THIS TYPE OF THING PROMOTES A CULTURE OF *ACTUAL* VIOLENCE TOWARDS *ACTUAL* WOMEN--
KSSHH
SPLSH
WHATEVER. BYE, CRAZY LADY. IT'S BEEN TERRIBLE.
HUH? YOU'RE LEAVING?

YOU CAN'T LEAVE! NOW I'M THE ONE WHO'S ALL KEYED UP! LET'S GO BEAT UP AT LEAST ONE OF THOSE GUYS!
WHAT ABOUT YOUR EMOTIONAL CLOSURE THING WITH JET SKI?
NO WAY. I'M MORE BRUISES THAN FUR AT THIS POINT, AND I'M PRETTY SURE NEW YORK IS GETTING INVADED BY ALIENS.
I'M NOT GONNA GET IT. HE WON, I LOST. I HOPE I NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN AS LONG AS I LIVE.
HI. I NEED YOUR HELP.
END OF PART II!

NEXT:

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